



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

Senator Wilson's volume has a personal interest in addition to its historical value. It is the monument of his own sincere allegiance to the cause which is now triumphant, through a period when loyalty to freedom and to the nation meant readiness to bear the trial of injustice, obloquy, and misinterpretation for their sake.

-
3. — *The Political History of the United States of America during the Great Rebellion, from November 6, 1860, to July 4, 1864, including a Classified Summary of the Legislation of the Second Session of the Thirty-sixth Congress, the Three Sessions of the Thirty-seventh Congress, the First Session of the Thirty-eighth Congress, with the Votes thereon, and the important Executive, Judicial, and Politico-Military Facts of that eventful Period, together with the Organization, Legislation, and General Proceedings of the Rebel Administration.* By EDWARD MCPHERSON, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, Clerk of the House of Representatives of the United States. Washington, D. C.: Philp and Solomons. 1864. 8vo. pp. viii., 440.

THIS volume is a compilation of documents illustrative of the history of the United States from 1860 to 1864. It is of great value for reference and consultation, for it contains a vast mass of material, judiciously selected, compactly arranged, and conveniently classified, carefully printed, and provided with a lucid table of contents and a good index. It is fitted to be of service to the politician and to the historical student, and it will be found a desirable, almost an indispensable, supplement to the methodical histories of the Rebellion. It affords the means of authenticating statements concerning policy and opinion, as well as of tracing the course of the most important acts of administration and of legislation.

No one can study this volume without being forcibly impressed, by the cumulative evidence it presents, with the intelligence, the self-possession, and the spirit which the people have manifested during the Rebellion, with the integrity and capacity of the administration, with the inherent force and vigor of our institutions, and with the transcendent importance of the principles involved in our struggle for union, freedom, and law. As time goes on, and the nature of our contest becomes more clearly manifest and better understood, the interest of the documents contained in this work will become greater and more general. They will take their place among the most important documents of all history.

We would suggest to Mr. McPherson, that his book would be improved by the addition of a brief chronological table of the events of the

period to which it relates; and that in a new edition a few errors in dates and of the press, which now are found in its pages, should be corrected.

4. — *Memoirs of* LIEUT.-GENERAL SCOTT, LL.D., *written by himself.*
In Two Volumes. New York: Sheldon and Company. 1864.
pp. 653.

HORACE seems to pity the forgotten captains who lived before Agamemnon, because they wanted a *vates sacer* fitly to set forth their exploits. But the epithet *sacer* is susceptible of a double meaning, and we suspect that Leonidas would have applied the word in a very different sense to Mr. Glover, if he had ever met him in the Elysian Fields; for so strong a dose of oblivion has seldom been administered to an heroic memory as the twelve books of that gentleman's well-meant epic. After all, however, there are more fatal things even than commonplace poets, and Dr. Bentley was no doubt right in saying that no man could be thoroughly written down but by himself.

It is generally unwise for people to write about themselves, for there is nobody of whom they know so little. George Sand, speaking of Rousseau's Confessions, says very shrewdly that whoever makes himself his hero becomes unconsciously a romance-writer; and Goethe hinted at the same thing when he called his autobiography *Dichtung und Wahrheit* (which might be paraphrased Fancy and Fact) out of his life. If no man be a hero to his valet, so every man becomes something very like a valet when he dresses himself up for presentation to the world. To be sure, if one has been wooing the world all along, he deserves nothing better than such a theatric apotheosis. The value of memoirs depends very much upon the amount of his memory which the writer devotes to other people. The more a man talks about himself, the less interesting he becomes; and ill-manners in this respect may be as unpleasantly displayed to posterity as to one's own contemporaries. We seem to be justified in forgetting one who is so amply remembered by himself, and almost feel animosity toward a memory which, like a sulky, seems made expressly to convey only a single person. The best memoirs are diaries, in which the events of the day are written down while they are fresh; for then other persons and things have some chance of attention even from the vainest men. But when a vain man, at the close of a long life, writes from recollection, the years, as he looks backward, become a series of mirrors, reflecting only the image of himself in a long perspective of unreal sameness. Had the Duke of St. Simon